



Haverhill

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Mayor Proposes Million Dollar Sidewalk Improvement Program

Today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini proposed a \$1.2 million program to repair and replace some of the sidewalks in the city. This would be the largest amount of money ever spent by the city on sidewalks.

Mayor Fiorentini stated:

“This would put a dent in the millions of dollars that are needed to repair our broken sidewalks. Sidewalk repairs are the number one request we get in the Mayor’s office. According to an inventory we did last year, our sidewalks need millions of dollars in repair. This will be, by far, the largest amount ever spent by the city to repair or replace sidewalks.”

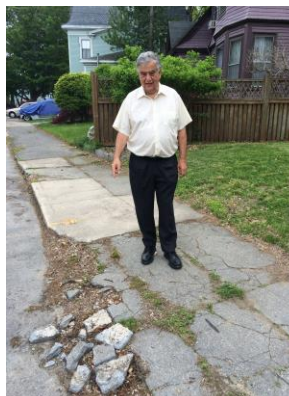
Many of the sidewalks in the city were constructed by the WPA project in the 1930’s, which was Federally funded. “They lasted for decades, but now for many of them, their time is up” said Fiorentini. “We owe it to our citizens to begin replacing and repairing them.”

In the Mayor’s inaugural address this year, he referenced making Haverhill a “walkable city.” “The first step in becoming a walkable city is to fix the sidewalks” said Fiorentini.

Last summer, the city worked with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) to hire interns to assess our sidewalks. Haverhill became one of the few communities in the state that actually now has a sidewalk assessment. According to the assessment, the city sidewalks need about \$12 million in repairs. The city allocates money every year to repair sidewalks, but this expense of over a million dollars, would be about six times larger than the city normally spends upon sidewalk repairs.

“We cannot do it all, and we certainly cannot do it all at once” said Fiorentini, “but that does not mean that we shouldn’t start. “The time to start is now.”

The Mayor said, “The city will draw up a sidewalk improvement plan which will start on sidewalks where children walk to school.”



(Above is Mayor Fiorentini in front on a sidewalk that needs repair.)